



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 July 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed a \$9,600 fine against Source Production and Equipment Co., Inc. in Louisiana, for failing to comply with NRC safety requirements regarding the use of a specific shipping package for transporting radioactive material. (See item [4](#))
- Government inspectors found the same bacteria strain on a single Mexican-grown jalapeno pepper handled in Texas and issued a stronger warning for consumers to avoid fresh jalapenos. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 22, Reuters* – (National; Texas) **Some U.S. oil platforms shut as Dolly storm nears.** Gulf of Mexico producers began shutting a small amount of oil and natural gas output from offshore platforms on Tuesday ahead of Tropical Storm Dolly, which is expected to hit the U.S.-Mexican border on Wednesday. Oil fell more than \$4 a barrel to a six-week low on Tuesday as Dolly, which is expected to become a hurricane before hitting land, was expected to miss major oil and gas installations. Energy giant Exxon Mobil Corp. said it shut 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil output and 40 million cubic feet per day in natural gas production. Producer Anadarko Petroleum Corp. said it had shut the equivalent of 30,000 bpd of oil production in the western Gulf of Mexico. That

amount, the only shut output oil and natural gas producers have revealed so far, is a fraction of Gulf production which provides one-quarter of U.S. oil and 15 percent of U.S. natural gas. Apache Corp. said it had evacuated all workers in the western Gulf, but did not shut down any production. BP Plc., Chevron Corp., and Shell Oil Co. also said they were flying workers from offshore platforms, but output was not shut. While Dolly's path will take the threat away from the heaviest offshore production areas, the storm still poses a potential threat to three refineries in Corpus Christi, Texas. Valero Energy Corp. and Citgo Petroleum Corp. said they were monitoring the storm and readying the refineries, but production remained as before the forecast. Flint Hills Resources LP said it was monitoring Dolly.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2228738720080722>

2. *July 21, Platts* – (Florida) **Florida muni group IRP eyes nuclear stake; biomass, solar supply.** The Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) said Monday that an integrated resource plan (IRP) for the 15 municipal utilities that secure power through its “All-Requirements Project” has concluded that the utilities should seek to become partial owners of one or more of four nuclear plants now under development in the state. The IRP also recommends that the 15 utilities buy 58 megawatts (MW) from a biomass-fired facility and ten MW from a solar photovoltaic plant. With the nuclear-plant stake, those purchases would help the utilities meet the governor's July 2007 mandate that utility 2017 greenhouse gas emissions not exceed 2000 levels. FMPA said that power demand for the 15 all-requirements utilities is projected to rise by about 38 percent over the next 20 years. It said that a planned demand-response program could reduce peak demand by 44 MW by 2012 and that energy efficiency programs could reduce the 15 utilities' 2018 electricity needs by about four percent.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8893414.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *July 21, KSBY 6 San Luis Obispo* – (California) **Flames threaten a chemical plant in Paso Robles.** Flames threatened the Lubrizol chemical plant in Paso Robles, California. The fire burned an outbuilding at Lubrizol, and at one point crews were afraid it could have spread into the main building. Firefighters said they do not think much of the plant was damaged and they had flames controlled in about 40 minutes. Two tanks containing chemicals burned. One of the tanks contained 700 gallons of ammonia, making for a very hot fire. Fire crews are unsure of the contents of the second tank that burned. The company, Lubrizol, provides special chemicals used as additives in anything for gasoline to personal hygiene products. Haz-Mat teams are still surveying the scene. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. No one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8712096>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *July 22, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Louisiana) **NRC proposes \$9,600 fine against Louisiana company for violation of requirements for shipping radioactive material.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a \$9,600 fine against Source Production and Equipment Co., Inc. (SPEC) in St. Rose, Louisiana, for failing to comply with NRC safety requirements regarding the use of a specific shipping package for transporting radioactive material. An NRC investigation conducted between May 2, 2005, and March 2, 2006, determined that two violations had occurred between July 2003 and May 2004. The first violation occurred when a transportation package was delivered that did not comply with the terms and conditions of the NRC Certificate of Compliance (COC) for the package. Specifically, the end caps of the package had been modified. The second violation occurred when SPEC did not inspect the transportation package prior to shipment, as required by NRC regulations. In addition, SPEC did not provide training to two individuals who performed pre-shipment inspections of the transportation package; however, this last violation is not subject to a fine. While the NRC is not aware of actual safety consequences associated with the shipments, the potential safety consequences were significant. In a pre-decisional enforcement conference with the NRC on June 5, 2008, SPEC described corrective actions and procedural controls put in place to ensure compliance with package COCs. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-133.html>
5. *July 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Dumping of radioactive sludge halted in Bucks County.** The operator of two Bucks County landfills says it is suspending plans to dump radioactive sludge from the Limerick Nuclear power plant until public concerns can be addressed. Waste Management officials say the company is responding to public reaction to the plan following news reports in the Bucks County Courier Times. The company planned to accept 750 tons of sludge containing radioactive Cesium-137 and Cobalt-60 at its Falls and Tullytown landfills. A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission health physicist says the “extremely small quantities” pose “extremely small risk” to the public. A Department of Environmental Protection official says no increased risk of radiation exposure exists even for truckers and landfill operators handling the material. The Tullytown Council says it will fight any plans to dump radioactive waste. Source: http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2008/07/dumping_of_radioactive_sludge_h.html
6. *July 21, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Georgia) **NRC conducting special inspection at Hatch nuclear plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a special inspection at the Hatch nuclear plant to assess the failure of one of the emergency diesel generators associated with Hatch Unit 1. On July 17, plant operator Southern Nuclear was conducting a 24-hour test of the diesel generator and noticed high vibration. After the diesel generator was stopped, workers discovered that the coupling between the diesel engine and generator had failed. Diesel generators at a nuclear plant provide emergency power should the plant lose power from offsite power lines. “We’re doing this inspection to ensure we completely understand the

circumstances of the failure and Southern Nuclear's action after it was discovered," said the NRC Region II administrator. He also said the NRC inspectors will evaluate the operability of the other diesel generator for Unit 1 and the two generators for Unit 2. The inspection begins this week and a report will be issued about 45 days after it is completed.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-040.ii.html>

7. *July 21, KCOY 12 Santa Maria* – (California) **Unusual event declared this morning at Diablo Canyon.** A fire alarm sounded at 8:53 a.m. inside the exhaust fan room at Diablo Canyon Power Plant Monday morning. The fire alarm prompted Diablo Canyon officials to declare a brief "unusual event" at 9:08 a.m. The U.S. Nuclear Regulator Commission requires a notification of an unusual event if a fire alarm is not validated within 15 minutes. The unusual event was cancelled seven minutes later after it was determined that there was no fire. Personnel are still investigating the cause of the fire alarm.

Source: http://www.kcoy.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=5658d80e-49ae-41ad-9307-4bc3a0d84d2e

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *July 21, Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **Boeing, Missile Defense Agency complete missile defense sensor integration test.** Boeing, industry teammates, and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, successfully completed a Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system test that demonstrated the most complex integration to date of sensors required to support a missile intercept. While previous tests typically involved a single target-tracking sensor, this test used four including: the Aegis Long Range Surveillance and Track system in the Pacific; the AN/TPY-2 radar in Juneau, Alaska; the Upgraded Early Warning Radar at Beale Air Force Base, California; and the Sea-Based X-Band Radar in the Pacific. During the test the sensors detected, tracked, and assessed a long-range ballistic missile target launched from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska. The sensors provided target information via ground and satellite links to GMD's dual-node, distributed fire control system, located at Fort Greely, Alaska, and in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The fire control system combined the sensor data, generated accurate targeting coordinates, and simulated a target shutdown with a virtual ground-based interceptor.

Source:

http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATI ON_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=334852&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *July 22, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Negligent Florida let criminals infect mortgage industry.** A Miami Herald investigation has found that from 2000 to 2007, regulators

approved 10,529 people with criminal records to work in the mortgage profession. Some of these criminals committed nearly \$85 million in mortgage fraud, stealing customers' identities, their savings and even their homes. Regulators ignored a state law adopted in 2006 requiring criminal background checks on mortgage brokers. The backgrounds of more than half the people who wrote mortgages in Florida were never checked. Despite the epidemic of mortgage fraud in recent years, license revocations declined during the last five years. And regulators allowed at least 20 brokers to keep their license after committing fraud. The Herald also found more than 5,000 people with criminal records became loan originators between 2000 and 2007 - including 2,201 who had committed financial crimes such as "fraud, money laundering and grand theft."

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/jul/22/na-negligent-florida-let-criminals-infect-mortgage/>

10. *July 21, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Dozens of bank accounts drained in debit card scam.** Dozens of victims have come forward after their bank accounts were drained by thieves. At least 75 people fell victim to a scam by simply using their debit card at a gas station and detectives expect many more reports to come in. Over the Fourth of July weekend, a highly organized group using stolen debit card information withdrew thousands of dollars from Pierce County, Washington, citizens' bank accounts. The information was obtained by using electronic skimming machines placed on gas pumps at an ARCO gas Station in Pierce County. Detectives believe the information was stolen in August 2007. Almost a year later, the information was used at multiple banks to withdraw thousand of dollars from each account. This was done over the three-day weekend to avoid detection. The card numbers and pins were trapped and stolen at the station and were used at ATMs throughout the King County area. Most card loses are around \$1,200, but some are much higher – up to \$4,000, depending on account balance or overdraft rules. If anyone has used that ARCO station during that time frame, they should contact their financial institution and get a new card issued.

Source:

http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_072108WAB_credit_card_scam_KC.7bbe6bc4.html

July 21, Better Business Bureau Connecticut – (National) **BBB Connecticut reports rogue debt collectors breaking the law.** As Americans struggle to cope with rising debt loads, complaints to Better Business Bureaus about some debt collection practices increased 26 percent in 2007. Consumers' most common complaints concern rude telephone calls, threats to have them arrested, using other forms of intimidation and violating federal law by ignoring the Do Not Call Registry. Some victims have even received repeated telephone calls on their cellular and home telephones. According to the Connecticut Better Business Bureau President, so-called third party debt collectors are going far beyond what the law permits them to do. Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, debt collection companies are prohibited from abusive tactics to frighten people in debt, and obliged to treat debtors fairly. Some of the worst cases involve collectors calling neighbors, friends and employers in an effort to shame debtors into paying up. Consumers have a right to a written notice within five days after being contacted by a debt collector spelling out the name of the company, how much money

they owe and how they can contest their claim if they believe they do not owe the amount stated in the document. Collectors are not allowed to contact consumers after receiving a letter asking them to stop, though they may still inform them what action they intend to take.

Source: <http://www.pr.com/press-release/96063>

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Transportation Sector

11. *July 22, Newsday* – (New York) **Airport diagrams found in Holtsville deli trash can.** Islip Town officials are trying to determine how architectural drawings of Long Island MacArthur Airport’s terminal ended up in a garbage can outside a Holtsville deli - and whether their discovery represents a security breach. An employee of Waverly Deli said he found the bound set of diagrams - about 4 feet by 3 feet and containing dozens of pages - rolled up and poking out of a garbage can outside the shop. Carrying the name of the Islip town supervisor, the airport commissioner and an Islandia engineering firm, the document was titled, “Terminal Building Fire Sprinkler Addition: Long Island MacArthur Airport Terminal Improvement Project.” An Islip supervisor said in a telephone interview he had not seen the drawings, but suggested it could be specifications the town gave to contractors bidding for a project to install sprinklers in MacArthur’s terminal. If so, the papers are public, he said, and do not pose any security threat. He added that specifications provided to contractors are drawn up according to Federal Aviation Administration guidelines. He emphasized they do not contain any sensitive information.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/longisland/ny-liair225772760jul22,0,7464369.story>

12. *July 22, BBC* – (International) **Foreign checks for airport staff.** People applying for security sensitive at UK airport jobs will face foreign criminal records checks by the end of the year. It follows the revelation of a loophole which meant workers were not checked for a criminal record abroad. The United Kingdom Transport Secretary said the rule would be introduced for new applicants, not existing staff. Currently, restricted pass holders at airports face a standard UK criminal records check. In May, the BBC’s Newsnight revealed that workers were not subject to overseas checks. A report said the insider threat was “varied and unpredictable,” and therefore personnel security measures had to mirror this in terms of flexibility and adaptability.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7519328.stm

13. *July 22, WBAY 2 Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Downtown Sturgeon Bay Bridge closed due to safety concerns.** The Wisconsin Department of Transportation suddenly shut down Sturgeon Bay’s downtown Michigan Street bridge Monday afternoon, saying the bridge will remain closed “until further notice.” “Portions of the bridge have deteriorated to the point where the bridge had to have weight limits posted. Unfortunately, heavy loads continued to use the bridge, leaving the WisDOT with few options but to close the bridge,” a DOT spokesman said. The DOT is working with Door County and Sturgeon Bay officials on marking detour routes. Right now the only way

across the Sturgeon Bay channel is the Bayview Bridge that carries traffic around the city on Highway 42/57. The bridge closure is a sudden roadblock disrupting the flow of life in Sturgeon Bay.

Source: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=8710136&nav=51s7RFqS>

14. *July 21, KTVU 2 Oakland* – (California) **Backpack shuts down BART, Amtrak stations.** The Walnut Creek Police Department bomb squad used a water canon to detonate a suspicious package that a man reportedly left on an Amtrak train Monday morning, said a Richmond police official. The man was reportedly asking questions of other passengers on the train before he left a package that appeared to have wires sticking out of it in one of the train cars, he said. The man then went into a second car and reportedly began removing windows from the train. The package, which prompted the evacuation of the Richmond Bay Area Rapid Transit station, was detonated shortly after 2:30 p.m. The station was reopened at 2:53 p.m. after the suspicious object was determined not to pose a threat, BART officials said. According to a BART spokesman, about 60 percent of the BART fleet is stored at the Richmond yard, which is north of the Richmond BART station. When the station was closed, trains were not able to reach the yard to have more cars added to them for the evening commute, the official said. However, after about 5:30 p.m. trains were expected to be normal commute length.
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/16944414/detail.html>

15. *July 21, Associated Press* – (Kentucky; Wisconsin) **Planes in Ky., Wis. diverted over pressure issues.** A US Airways Group Inc. spokeswoman says a flight from Louisville, Kentucky, was diverted to Lexington when the regional jet's cabin did not properly pressurize. The passengers on Flight 2212 to Charlotte, North Carolina, were put on another flight Monday. None of the 73 passengers and crew was hurt. Also Monday, a Northwest Airlines Corp. flight made an emergency landing for a second straight day. An airline spokeswoman says Flight 126 from Minneapolis to Chicago made an emergency landing in Madison, Wisconsin, after the pilot noticed gauges showed a loss of pressure. None of the 115 passengers on the DC-9 were injured and they were being bused to Chicago. A Northwest flight from Tampa, Florida, to Detroit made an emergency landing Sunday in Dayton, Ohio, when a computer for one of its engines failed.
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gdFehzqpv5i-WJ6iFr6DrB6C9UWwD922JCNO1>

16. *July 21, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **T.F. Green evacuated after grenade scare.** The T.F. Green Airport Police Chief says the Warwick airport was partially evacuated for 40 minutes Sunday afternoon after two inert grenades were spotted in a bag passing through an X-ray machine. A passenger failed to alert federal screeners that he had two inert grenades in his luggage. An x-ray machine went into lockdown after his luggage was placed inside. Media reports of the evacuation surfaced Monday, and an airport spokeswoman said it was not the airport's policy to alert the public of closures.
Source: <http://www.wpri.com/Global/story.asp?S=8709521&nav=F2DO>

17. *July 21, WABC 7 New York City* – (New York) **Controller shortage grounds flights.**

On Friday, thousands of passengers at LaGuardia Airport were delayed because there were not enough air traffic controllers. The shortage of air traffic controllers and its potential impact on safety has been much discussed recently. Now, it appears that for the first time, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had to halt planes headed to New York because of too few controllers watching the radar screens. The cracks in the air traffic control system started to show during a peak afternoon rush last Friday. That is when an FAA advisory went out to control towers nationwide, calling for a ground stop of all planes departing for LaGuardia. Dozens of commercial airlines were kept on the tarmac for up to 60 minutes because of a staffing shortage in New York.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/investigators&id=6277986>

18. *July 21, Associated Press* – (California) **Man to be tried on charges of making bomb threat.** An Irvine man has been ordered to stand trial for allegedly making a false bomb threat at Los Angeles International Airport. Police say the 27-year-old approached authorities outside an airport terminal on July 2 and told them he was a terrorist with a bomb in his bag. A bomb squad found no explosives. Airport officials say the bomb threat prompted flight delays, caused road closures and affected more than 20,000 passengers.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9953534
19. *July 21, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Three planes collide on the ground at Baton Rouge Metro Airport.** A three-plane ground crash at the Baton Rouge Metro Airport could have become an explosive disaster. It happened at the new regional maintenance hangar for Atlantic Southeast Airlines, or ASA. A young mechanic pressed a starter switch to slowly spin the compressor blades for cleaning. Instead, her action sent the engine to immediate takeoff power, hurling the fragile aircraft at 90 degree angles. The total value to the three CRJ commuter jets is \$100 million and it looks like the most expensive one is a total loss.
Source: http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=8711634&nav=menu57_1
20. *July 21, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. urges Bombardier to revise Challenger jet handbook.** The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board recommended on Monday that Bombardier Inc. revise the reference book for its Challenger 600 airplanes to include more detailed instructions for takeoff. The recommendation to regulator Transport Canada follows an investigation into a February 2005 incident, in which a Challenger jet ran off a runway at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, while attempting to take off. The plane crashed through an airport fence and crossed a six-lane highway before hitting a building. The delayed liftoff with the Challenger jets raised concerns that other pilots, fearing their plane might similarly not fly, would abort takeoff at speeds well above those at which such a decision can safely be made, the board said. The board recommended that the takeoff stabilizer settings listed in the Challenger 600 and 601 flight manuals should be included in the reference handbook that is carried in the cockpit and that operators be informed of the changes.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2141113720080721>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *July 21, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Suspected mail bomb in Savannah was harmless.** Authorities say a suspected mail bomb that forced the evacuation of a Savannah, Georgia, courthouse turned out to be a harmless package. After the package was found Monday, the Chatham County Courthouse was evacuated, and nearby streets were closed. A police spokeswoman says a bomb squad determined the device was harmless after removing and inspecting it. She initially called the package a “hoax,” but later said the sender, a 35-year-old woman who was located by police, did not mail it as a threat or to cause alarm. The woman, whose identity was not released, has been taken to a hospital for a mental evaluation. Police do not intend to press charges.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hvXkRRSKazwCNiBJg0DePQkcBbjAD922FLPG1>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *July 22, Medical News Today* – (International; National) **Veterinary convention stresses connection between human, animal health.** To address the interconnectivity of human, animal, and environmental health, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and American Medical Association (AMA) recently joined forces to establish the One Health Initiative and seek out ways to better assess, treat, and prevent cross-species disease transmission. One Health was a focal point of this year’s AVMA Convention, where some of the nation’s leading health experts, including veterinarians and human doctors, will gather to discuss the importance of collaboration in preventing disease outbreaks and controlling zoonotic diseases. Topics range from how sea otters can serve as sentinels for potentially deadly pathogens in the environment to food safety to avian influenza surveillance to the health benefits and potential risks of pet ownership. The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne, and Enteric Diseases said people need to understand how the spheres of human, animal, and environmental health are connected and together contribute to overall public health.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/115689.php>

23. *July 22, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA finds salmonella strain in jalapeno pepper.** Government inspectors found the same bacteria strain on a single Mexican-grown jalapeno pepper handled in Texas. In response, they issued a stronger warning for consumers to avoid fresh jalapenos. However, authorities still do not know where the pepper became tainted. Nor are they saying the tainted pepper exonerates tomatoes sold earlier in the spring that consumers until last week had been told were the prime suspect. For now, the government is strengthening its earlier precaution against hot peppers to a warning that no one should eat fresh jalapenos, or products such as fresh salsa made from them, until it can better pinpoint where tainted ones may have sold. The Texas

plant, Agricola Zaragoza, has suspended sales of fresh jalapenos and recalled those shipped since June 30. The company says shipments were made to Georgia and Texas. The Food and Drug Administration said no other produce currently in the plant has tested positive for salmonella, and was continuing to probe where the produce came from and went. But a sign over Agricola Zaragoza's spot inside a huge produce warehouse on Monday displayed pictures of tomatoes, onions, and tomatillos alongside jalapenos. The depiction suggested the small vendor might have handled both major suspects in the outbreak that has sickened 1,251 people.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ijaaf9rEEqJFRI_zJo1YK8TYcBFgD922PLT82

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Water Sector

24. *July 22, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Upstate New York's looming natural gas nightmare.** On May 29, top New York state environmental officials assured state lawmakers that plans to drill for natural gas near the watershed that supplies New York City's drinking water posed little danger. A survey of other states had found "not one instance of drinking water contamination" from the water-intensive, horizontal drilling that would take place across New York's southern tier, the officials said. Reassured, the legislature quickly approved a bill to streamline the permitting process for a huge influx of wells which could bring the state upwards of \$1 billion in annual revenue. The governor has only until Wednesday to sign the bill, and the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) says drilling permits could be approved in as little as 12 weeks. But a joint investigation by ProPublica and New York City public radio station WNYC revealed hundreds of instances of drinking water contamination in states, where comparable drilling has been done. In New Mexico, oil and gas drilling using waste pits like those proposed for New York has caused toxic chemicals to leach into the water table at some 800 sites. Colorado has reported more than 300 spills affecting its ground water. DEC officials said they were not aware of those incidents, even though that information could have been found through a rudimentary internet search. They apparently had not understood that the new drilling techniques pump trace amounts of toxic chemicals into the ground, and they could not say for sure how New York would dispose of the millions of gallons of hazardous fluids that are the byproducts of this type of drilling. Four days after one interview, the DEC sent a letter to the drilling companies asking for detailed information about the type and amount of chemicals they will use. In addition, the Marcellus development will be far more complicated than any previous drilling operations in the state. It will involve deeper, horizontal wells. Each well could suck up, and later spit out, between one million and five million gallons of water. That would place an unprecedented burden on New York's watersheds, including those that feed New York City's reservoirs and farmland in Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Delaware, and Sullivan Counties.

Source: <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=705332>

25. *July 21, Schenectady Daily Gazette* – (New York) **PCBs found in Stillwater water supply.** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been found for the first time in the

Stillwater, New York, public water supply, according to the mayor. “The levels remain well below the New York state maximum contaminant level of 500 nanograms per liter,” according to a statement issued by the mayor. “Therefore, the water provided by the village of Stillwater remains potable and well under and within the [state Health Department] standards.” The PCBs were found in tests of village wells by the state Health Department, which did not immediately return a call. The state was testing the wells as part of a monitoring program in connection with planned dredging of the Hudson River to remove PCB contamination. The massive dredging project, which is scheduled to begin next year, is being done by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is being paid for by General Electric Co., whose capacitor plants in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward were the original source of the PCBs in the river.

Source: http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/jul/21/0721_pcb/

26. *July 21, WRGB 6 Albany* – (New York) **Washington County junkyard sued for discharging toxic chemicals.** A Washington County, New York, junkyard has been slapped with a lawsuit by the attorney general’s office, accused of allowing toxic chemicals to seep into the air and nearby groundwater. The attorney general said East Side Used Auto Parts in the town of Kingsbury, Washington County, had been crushing cars without properly draining the fluids since the current owners began operations there in 2003. As a result, he said, gasoline, petroleum, antifreeze, and Freon has been polluting the soil and groundwater wells. The lawsuit also charges the junkyard with spilling hazardous chemicals and improperly storing potentially harmful debris, including car batteries and tires. The attorney general said he wanted the owners to clean up any soil and groundwater contamination and require them to pay civil penalties, which he estimates could total more than \$50,000 per day of violations.

Source:

http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/county_1256275_article.html/toxic_washington.html

27. *July 20, Shreveport Times; Gannett News Service; Louisville Courier-Journal* – (National) **Aging sewers threaten environment, public health.** America’s sewers are showing their age. Deteriorating pipes, overwhelmed by volumes of water they were never designed to carry, release billions of gallons of raw sewage into rivers and streams each year. The spills make people sick, threaten local drinking water, and kill aquatic animals and plants. Hundreds of municipal sewer authorities have been fined for spills since 2003, according to a Gannett News Service analysis of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data. Dozens of local governments have agreed to spend billions modernizing failing wastewater systems over the next ten to 20 years. Many of those projects will be financed by rate increases. But the improvements cannot keep up with problems affecting the thousands of miles of sewer pipes snaking underground through each community. EPA officials estimate 850 billion gallons of storm water mixed with raw sewage pour into U.S. waters every year from systems, some built in the 19th and early 20th centuries that are designed to overflow in wet weather. An additional three billion to ten billion gallons of raw sewage spill accidentally every year from systems designed to carry only sewage, according to the EPA. Those spills are caused by numerous factors, including improper connections, clogs caused by debris, construction

accidents, and cracks in aging pipes. As many as 5,500 people get sick every year from direct exposure to pollutants discharged from sewer overflows near beaches, the EPA estimates. The nation's public wastewater treatment plants and sewage collection systems need about \$350 billion to \$500 billion over the next 20 years for repairs and expansion, according to estimates from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Legislation that would require sewer authorities to notify the public of overflows and spills is pending in Congress.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080720/NEWS01/807200319/1060>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *July 22, Korea Times* – (International) **Bird Flu strain can be transmitted to mammals.** Korean quarantine authorities said Tuesday that the virus strain of avian influenza that swept the country in April could be transmitted to mammals, but not necessarily to humans. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sent samples from infected birds to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention for detailed analysis. The U.S. agency concluded the virus from the sample could be transmitted to mammals but that there was no proof it could infect humans, an official from the ministry said. “It was impossible to directly test if it can cause illness in humans. Alternatively, we chose a weasel for testing and when it was infected, it showed similar symptoms to bird flu,” the official said at a news briefing. He declined a “yes or no” answer over the possibility of the virus infecting humans, citing the lack of human testing. He said the ministry was implementing a system to monitor poultry farms and bird habitats all year round and set up new procedures to quickly cope with any bird flu outbreaks.

Source: http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2008/07/117_28022.html

29. *July 22, BBC* – (International) **IMF funding ‘fuelling TB deaths’.** Strict conditions on international loans have been blamed for thousands of extra tuberculosis (TB) deaths in Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics. Analysts from Cambridge and Yale universities said they had led to less being spent on healthcare. As a result TB in countries with International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans rose sharply, they claimed. A UK TB charity backed the Public Library of Science study findings - but the IMF firmly rejected them. The resurgence of TB in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has caused widespread concern, particularly as it has coincided with an increase in the number of drug-resistant cases.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7514467.stm>

30. *July 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Health officials tout computer prescribing.** Beginning January 1, 2009, the federal government will boost Medicare's payments to doctors that send prescriptions electronically to a pharmacy rather than writing them out on paper and handing them to the patient. The widespread adoption of electronic prescribing is expected to save taxpayers as much as \$156 million over the next five

years and save lives, the Health and Human Services Secretary said Monday. Currently, about 10 percent of family physicians use computers to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies. The software can ensure that all necessary information is filled out and legible and also allows doctors to keep better tabs on their patients. They can check for the possibility of an allergic reaction or whether a prescription may conflict with another medicine. They can also see if patients are taking their medication as directed. The biggest barrier to electronic prescribing has been the expense of buying and setting up the necessary equipment and software — an estimated \$3,000 per prescribing doctor. So Congress agreed to pay doctors slightly more over the next five years when they use such systems. They would get an extra two percent in their reimbursement rates when treating Medicare patients during 2009 and 2010, one percent more in 2011 and 2012 and 0.5 percent more in the final year.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080721/ap_on_he_me/doctors_prescriptions;_ylt=AmG2PICpyEeh0K9gkz1T7afVJRIF

31. *July 19, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **CDC: Offline generators caused germ lab outage.** A critical germ lab at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lost power last week because the agency had taken two backup generators out of service for upgrades, CDC officials said Friday. Their absence from a complex, centralized backup generator system created a power fluctuation when the system was activated during a July 11 power outage, causing the whole system to shut down, a CDC spokesman said. The problem is being fixed, he said. The backup power failure — the second in 13 months — is the type predicted years ago by some CDC engineers. And it has heightened concerns in Congress about lab safety at the Atlanta agency, which experiments on smallpox, Ebola, anthrax, and other deadly germs. The Government Accountability Office has been examining the concerns raised by West and others as part of its probe of the safety of U.S. labs working with potential bioterrorism agents.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/wednesday/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/07/18/cdc_power_outage.html

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *July 21, West County Times* – (California) **Students suspected of bringing AK-47 to Pinole school.** The two students arrested at Pinole Valley High School in California on Friday following a six-hour lockdown of the campus are suspected of bringing an AK-47 assault rifle to school, Pinole police said Monday. The male students, whose ages were not released, both were arrested on suspicion of possession of an illegal assault weapon, possession of a machine gun, bringing a firearm onto school grounds, being a minor in possession of live ammunition, being a minor with a concealed weapon, being a minor in possession of a firearm with prior conviction, a probation violation, and marijuana transportation. Both have previous gun and ammunition possession arrests or convictions on their records, police said. Despite the charges and contrary to earlier reports, no gun or ammunition was found on the students or recovered at the school, the

Pinole police commander said.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_9951979?nlick_check=1

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *July 22, Associated Press* – (International) **Texas, Mexico prepare for Tropical Storm Dolly.** Texas mobilized National Guard troops and residents along the Gulf Coast near the Mexican border were buying plywood, flashlights, and other supplies as Tropical Storm Dolly headed their way. Forecasters expect Tropical Storm Dolly to strengthen into a hurricane this week. Hurricane warnings were issued late Monday for parts of the Texas and Mexico coasts. Dolly was expected to make landfall later this week and bring with it high winds and 10 to 20 inches of rain in coastal areas. Emergency officials feared major flooding problems and urged coastal residents to prepare. The governor of Texas activated 1,200 National Guard troops and other emergency crews and Shell Oil said it was evacuating workers from oil rigs in the western Gulf of Mexico. Mexico also announced a hurricane warning from Rio San Fernando north to the U.S. border. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch were also in effect from La Pesca to Rio San Fernando. Forecasters said Dolly was expected to make landfall late Tuesday or early Wednesday as a Category 1 hurricane, which has with sustained winds of 74 mph to 95 mph.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080722/ap_on_re_us/tropical_weather;_ylt=AvcjsFrFhF7dkwprqNLXiaes0NUE

34. *July 22, Raleigh News & Observer* – (North Carolina) **NCSU facility to help first responders.** A new facility at North Carolina State University (NCSU) will research increased protection for first responders by testing their gear against potentially harmful chemical and biological threats. The Man-in-Simulant Test laboratory, at NCSU's College of Textiles, is the only one of its kind at a university in the United States, according to a news release from NCSU. The laboratory was funded by a two-year, two million dollar grant from the Department of Defense. In the main testing chamber, researchers can perform the same tasks as a first responder, such as climbing a ladder, crawling, or carrying a victim to safety in an environment that can be controlled for temperature, wind speed, and vapor concentration, the release said.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1149688.html>

35. *July 21, Pioneer Press* – (Minnesota) **'Nuclear incident exercise' scheduled for Prairie Island.** State emergency responders participated in an exercise simulating a nuclear incident at the Prairie Island nuclear plant Monday, a Department of Public Safety spokesman said. The exercise was designed to test the capabilities of emergency responders during a nuclear incident. As part of the exercise, state and federal teams monitored air and water samples near the plant, as well as county and state emergency centers.

Source:

http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/ci_9947603?nlick_check=1&forced=true

36. *July 21, CNN* – (Louisiana) **Huge math error in Katrina supply giveaway.** Federal officials vastly overestimated the value of hurricane relief supplies given away earlier this year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reported Monday. The General Services Administration (GSA), which manages federal property, over-counted cases of toilet paper, plastic sporks, and other cutlery by mistakenly counting a single item as being worth as much as multiple items contained in a package of goods. The original GSA estimate of \$85 million should have been \$18.5 million, according to figures released by GSA and FEMA. The household goods were supposed to go to people whose homes were destroyed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. But the items were stored in warehouses in Louisiana and then Fort Worth, Texas. A recent CNN investigative story exposed that those materials never made it to storm victims. GSA officials were asked recently to reassess the total cost of donated items in what the agency called a routine audit. A GSA spokeswoman said Monday she would investigate whether it is unusual for the agency to make such a large accounting mistake. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/21/katrina.supplies/index.html>

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Information Technology

37. *July 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **Details of major Internet flaw posted by accident.** A computer security company on Monday inadvertently published details of a major flaw in the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) several weeks before they were due to be disclosed. The flaw was discovered several months ago by an IOActive researcher, who worked through the early part of this year with Internet software vendors such as Microsoft, Cisco, and the Internet Systems Consortium to patch the issue. The companies released a fix for the bug two weeks ago and encouraged corporate users and Internet service providers to patch their DNS systems as soon as possible. Although the problem could affect some home users, it is not considered to be a major issue for consumers. At the time he announced the flaw the researcher, who had planned to disclose details of the flaw during a presentation at the Black Hat security conference set for August 6, asked members of the security research community to hold off on public speculation about its precise nature in order to give users time to patch their systems. Some researchers took the request as a personal challenge to find the flaw before the talk. On Monday, the CEO of Zynamics.com (who uses the hacker name Halvar Flake) took a guess at the bug. His findings were quickly confirmed by Matasano Security in its Eastern publication. Matasano's post discusses the technical details of the bug, saying that by using a fast Internet connection, an attacker could launch what's known as a DNS cache poisoning attack against a Domain Name server and succeed, for example, in redirecting traffic to malicious Web sites within about 10 seconds. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110418&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

38. *July 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **Ex-Microsoft manager gets 22 months for fraud.** The woman formerly responsible for managing Microsoft Corp.'s Internet

domain names was sentenced to nearly two years in prison for bilking the software maker out of \$1 million in fake registration fees. The woman, a former program manager at Microsoft's MSN division, pleaded guilty in January to charges that she used her position within the company to run a number of scams between 2000 and 2004. On Friday, she was sentenced to 22 months in prison, followed by three months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$923,641 in restitution.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110384&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

39. *July 20, Al Bawaba* – (International) **Omantel signs agreement to extend fiber optic submarine cable to Omani coasts.** Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) and Middle East and North Africa Company (MENA) of Egypt have recently signed an agreement on the landing of a submarine fiber optics cable on the Omani coasts to enhance international telecommunications traffic between the Sultanate of Oman and the world. The chief executive officer of Omantel stressed the importance of the agreement as it would introduce huge capacities for submarine cables in the Sultanate. The project would provide great services for international telecommunications traffic, especially the Internet, through fiber optics in case of any cable cutoffs. It would provide alternative lines for international telecom network, as well as upgradable transmission facilities in support of Internet, e-commerce, video, data, and voice. The total cost of the project is about 400 million U.S. dollars. The 8000-kilometer long cable, which would provide a total capacity of 5.7 terra bytes, will arrive at Wilayat Al Seeb during the third quarter of 2009.

Source:

<http://www.albawaba.com/en/countries/Oman/232383>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *July 22, Associated Press* – (International) **China: No links found between bus explosions and next month's Olympics.** Chinese police investigating two deadly bus explosions in a southwestern city have not found any links between the blasts and next month's Olympic Games, officials said Tuesday. The explosions Monday on two public buses in Kunming, Yunnan province had heightened fears of terrorism less than three

weeks before the opening of the Beijing games. Two people were killed and 14 wounded in the explosions, which police said were deliberately set. One blast shattered windows and tore a gaping hole in the side of the bus. The Kunming police chief said investigators did not know whether the blasts were perpetrated by many people, or an individual, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. He ruled out links to the Olympics and to disgruntled farmers in the province who clashed with police over the weekend. The state-run Southern Metropolis Daily in Guangdong province reported Tuesday that police were checking into text messages allegedly sent to Kunming residents warning them to avoid buses just hours before the two explosions.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/07/22/asia/AS-China-Explosions.php>

41. *July 21, WCNC 36 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Video shows person responsible for bomb.** Surveillance video from outside the Wal-Mart in Boone, North Carolina, shows someone jogging toward the front of the store, staying briefly while he is believed to be planting a homemade bomb, and fleeing on foot, police say. Boone police released images from the surveillance video Monday afternoon. They have not yet identified the person in the video. Police say they worry that whoever left the bomb outside Wal-Mart early Sunday morning could do the same thing again somewhere else. Police evacuated the store after an employee found the device near the front doors about an hour and a half before opening time. The device looked suspicious enough that store employees called police. A Boone newspaper said the bomb consisted of a copper center piece, two butane tanks, and flash powder.

Source: <http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stories/wcnc-072008-sjf-walmartbomb.743831bc.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

42. *July 22, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Park Service agrees to keep Yellowstone pass open.** The National Park Service has formally approved an agreement it reached with Wyoming and other parties to use explosives to keep a mountain pass open to guided snowmobile access on the eastern side of Yellowstone National Park. The agreement codifies the changes in the agency's Yellowstone winter-use plan that the Park Service negotiated with state and local officials in a series of closed meetings that ended last month. Wyoming officials say keeping Sylvan Pass open in the winter is critical for the area's tourism and recreation.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jZeF7X3Gjrg8kbBvLKqznfEcMx2gD922PS100>

43. *July 22, Lee News Service* – (Montana) **YNP Chief: Brucellosis 'most difficult' issue facing park, neighbors.** The superintendent of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) pledged Monday to work with Montana's Board of Livestock to eradicate the disease. She said the issue is complicated and must not boil down to "livestock versus wildlife." She said eliminating the disease is so complex, both ranchers and conservationists must work in concert to expunge it. Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, along with the National Park Service and other agencies, have long managed bison in the park to decrease the

odds the animals will spread the disease to domestic animals. Those efforts cost Yellowstone more than \$1 million a year, the YNP chief told the Montana Board of Livestock on Monday, and have resulted in the slaughter of more than 6,000 wild bison that roamed outside the park. Recent outbreaks in Montana and Wyoming, however, point to elk as the most likely source of the disease. Currently, there are no formal plans for dealing with elk and brucellosis, although federal officials earlier this month announced they are considering capturing or killing infected elk within the park. An estimated 95,000 elk live within the Greater Yellowstone area.

Source:

<http://www.trib.com/articles/2008/07/22/news/wyoming/7f66a882526287758725748e00004558.txt>

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Dams Sector

44. *July 22, Oneonta Daily Star* – (New York) **Fragile dam to be reinforced.** In New York, a beaver dam on a stream that feeds Otsego Lake is slated to be replaced this summer before it breaks again. Situated on a small brook on the lake's western shore, the dam has burst several times over the years, said the assistant to the director of the State University College at Oneonta's Biological Field Station on the lake. The periodic break sends gravel, boulders, sediment, and microorganisms, including *Giardia lamblia*, into the nine-mile-long lake, which is Cooperstown's reservoir. To address the problem, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) plans to create a permanent earthen dam, stabilized with sheet piling and incorporating a water-control device. The USC's watershed coordinator said the dam will help protect water quality in the lake, source of the Susquehanna River, which flows to the Chesapeake Bay.

Source: http://www.thedailystar.com/local/local_story_204040012.html

45. *July 22, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Hope Mills gets more money for dam.** The town of Hope Mills learned Monday that the state of North Carolina continues to support its effort to rebuild Hope Mills Lake. The mayor announced at Monday night's Board of Commissioners meeting that the state has awarded \$1,071,750 toward the lake's restoration. Hope Mills Lake drained in 2003 after heavy rains caused an earthen dam to breach.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=299847>

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